

April 7, 2019

Dear Iowans,

My name is Noah Wasserman. I made a mistake that impacted your lives. This letter is my effort to take responsibility, provide an explanation, and apologize as personally as I am able.

I fell in love with politics at a young age and began working on campaigns when I was 22. In 2017, at the age of 26, I left the coast and made my way to Iowa, one of the most influential states in the political process. I had been hired as the campaign manager for Theresa Greenfield, a candidate for Congress in Iowa's Third District. That campaign was derailed last spring, however, when I made the decision to falsify signatures on her nomination petitions. My actions resulted in Theresa being denied access to the primary ballot in June and you being denied the ability to vote for a dedicated and capable candidate whom I found inspiring.

When I arrived in Des Moines, I was worn down from the grind of four years of campaign work. I had a chronically painful back injury and my mental health was deteriorating. As the campaign ramped up, it became clear there was a field of fantastic candidates and that pressure was truly affecting me. Even something as simple as checking my email made me sick to my stomach. I was exhausted and frustrated. With just a week remaining to submit the necessary signatures, we were still a few signatures short. I desperately wanted to shift our attention to other matters – namely the upcoming fundraising deadline and county conventions. Instead of asking for help, I falsified signatures, lied to Theresa, and told her to submit the nomination documents. Neither she, nor anyone else, knew what I had done.

I woke up the next day sick knowing that I had made a massive mistake. I confessed to Theresa what I had done and apologized for my actions. Naturally I was fired, her documents were withdrawn, and a mad scramble to redo the petitions ensued. Despite those efforts, what I had done ultimately destroyed all that had been built by Theresa and her many supporters, volunteers, and campaign staff.

It's been a very long year since that day. Even with the help of my friends, family, and therapist, I struggled to move forward in life. I knew I needed to apologize fully to the people who were hurt by what I did, but the fear of criminal prosecution held me back. After 10 months of carrying this remorse and shame, I decided I would no longer use legal risk as a crutch for not doing what was right. In January, I wrote apology letters to Theresa and to people I worked closely with on the campaign. Those letters were long overdue. While for the first time in almost a year I felt like I was back on a good path, it was only the first step.

I now want to apologize to the people whose signatures I used and to the people of Iowa for denying you the possibility of voting for a terrific candidate. I crossed paths with thousands of you, enjoyed your hospitality, and experienced firsthand why you have earned the respect and political influence that you have. So while some would call what I did an "error in judgment," it feels even more personal — like a betrayal. For that, I am especially sorry.

Theresa and I have not talked, so I don't know her plans for the future. Regardless of if she chooses to run again, I hope Iowans get the chance to know her for the wonderful leader that she is.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,



Noah Wasserman